

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 16 and which has been canceled. Claim 1 is now be allowable, along with its dependent claims 2-8 and 14-15, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1.

Independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-13 are indicated to be allowable.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 20, 2004

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